



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

BRADLEY J. SCHLOZMAN

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY CONVICTS HUMANSVILLE MAN FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Humansville, Mo., man was convicted by a federal jury today for illegally possessing a firearm after a deer hunting incident.

Ricky Wayne Meads, 43, of Humansville, was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

“This defendant is a persistent and violent criminal who needs to be incarcerated for the safety of the community,” Schlozman said. “This illustrates the importance of Operation Ceasefire, which targets felons with guns for prosecution.”

Meads was hunting without permission on property in Cedar County, Schlozman said, when he used a Glenfield/Marlin 30-30 rifle to shoot a deer from a vehicle on the road. The property owner confronted **Meads** as he and a friend were dragging the dead deer toward the road, and demanded that **Meads** leave his property and leave the deer behind.

Under federal law, Schlozman explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Meads** has six criminal felony convictions, which qualifies him to be sentenced as an armed career criminal. **Meads** has 2001 criminal felony convictions for assault and armed criminal action in Polk County, Mo., a 2000 criminal felony conviction for receiving stolen property in Saline County, Mo., a 1990 criminal felony conviction for burglary in Saline County, a 1987 criminal felony conviction for assault in Henry County, Mo., and a 1982 criminal felony conviction for assault in Jackson County, Mo.

Following the presentation of evidence, the jury in U.S. District Court in Springfield deliberated about five hours before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr, ending a trial that began Monday.

Under federal statutes, **Meads** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by the Cedar County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Polk County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Missouri Conservation Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html